Utilisation of Central Road Fund

565. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pace of utilisation of money accruing to the State Governments from the Central Road Fund for upgradation of State roads, is at slow pace;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken for speedy completion of road projects by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 2000-01 out of a provision of Rs. 990 crore for State Roads from Central Road Fund, an amount of Rs. 332.02 crore was released to all States/ Union Territories in the first instance having regard to the fact that further funds will be released to States/Union Territories on receipt of Utilisation Certificate and progress report from them. Till now, out of Rs. 332.02 crore released during 2000-01, utilisation certificates for the amount of Rs. 41.13 crore only have been received from some States and this amount has already been released to these States.

(c) The States/Union Territories have been requested to expedite the progress of works sanctioned from Central Road Fund and send Utilisation Certificates to enable further release of funds.

Private sector participation in construction of highways

566. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the internal/external private sector companies having shown interest for investment in highways during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) whether Government have, till date, announced any special incentives for private sectors who are desirous of investment in highways;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?